

VZCZCXRO1725
PP RUEHDBU
DE RUEHNT #0800 1140310
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 240310Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5606
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHSHW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 0062
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 3461
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1426
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0760
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0066
RUEAHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0678
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1737
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0073

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000800

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN, PRM AND DRL
MOSCOW FOR DHS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/21/2016
TAGS: PREF PHUM PREL PGOV UZ
SUBJECT: UNDP ESTABLISHES REFUGEE SUPPORT UNIT

REF: TASHKENT 728

Classified By: AMB. JON R. PURNELL, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B, D)

(C) Post received a copy of a letter sent on April 19 by UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Fikret Akcura to his UN colleagues stating that UNDP has assumed responsibility for extending humanitarian support to refugees in Uzbekistan, and facilitating their resettlement and voluntary repatriation. This follows the Government's closure of the UNHCR office on April 17 (reftel). Under the terms of the MOU signed between UNDP and UNHCR, UNDP has created a refugee support unit consisting of five full-time staff members. (Note: A former UNHCR staff member told Poloff that this unit includes a senior repatriation clerk, an assistant protection officer, an eligibility assistant and a driver. End note.) UNHCR will fund the unit. UNDP has expressed willingness to consider expanding this UNHCR-funded core group as needs evolve. Protection Officer Asako Nozawa has relocated to Bishkek where she will continue to provide advice on technical refugee issues.

PURNELL